(e) In the Ninth Plan, schemes envisaged financial contribution from the State/UT Governments. In the Tenth Plan now it is proposed that in the scheme of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits entire funding would be done by the Department of Tourism, Government of India. However, State support would be required for certain items of the project.

Professional Archaeologists in ASI

98. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had till nineties been headed by a professional archaeologist and with the change, its functioning has been adversely affected;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government now propose to revert the old practice of the ASI being headed by a well-known archaeologist ; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be reverted to the old system?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (c) The post of Director General has been headed by IAS Officers since 10-9-1996 as the UPSC could not select a suitable candidate as per the extant Recruitment Rules. While this did not affect the functioning of ASI, the Recruitment Rules have since been amended and sent to the Press for Notification. The post will be filled up as soon as an eligible person is available as per the criteria prescribed.

Project for bank erosion of River Ganga

99. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee set up by the Planning Commission has recommended Rs. 927 crore project to take the serious bank erosion problem of the River Ganga ;

(b) if so, whether only Rs. 19.68 crore has been approved by the Ministry of Water Resources ;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake at least the short-term projects estimated at Rs. 315 crore ; and

(d) if so, the time-limit of the projects ?